

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 01482 030212Z

54

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15

SAJ-01 /043 W

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R 030121Z AUG 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6115

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1482

NOFORN

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: HUA KUO-FENG DROPS SECURITY JOB?

1. SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHE V. F. LOBANOV, DURING CALL AUGUST 2 ON USLO POLCOUNS, SAID THAT A PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER (YU CHAN?) HAD TOLD SOVIETS ABOUT 12 DAYS AGO, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, THAT HUA KUO-FENG WAS NO LONGER MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY. AFTER A MOMENT'S REFLECTION, LOBANOV ASKED THAT THIS INFORMATION AS COMING FROM HIS EMBASSY AND HIMSELF BE STRICTLY PROTECTED, A REQUEST WE WISH TO HONOR.

2. LOBANOV COMMENTED THAT, SPEAKING AS A MILITARY MAN HIMSELF, IT WAS A SMART MOVE FOR HUA TO DIVEST HIMSELF OF THAT PARTICULAR POST, AS PLA COMMANDERS SUCH AS HSU SHIH-HU AND LI TE-SHENG MIGHT THUS TEND TO LOOK ON HUA LESS IN THE INTERNAL SECURITY (INCLUDING WATCHDOG ON THE ARMY) ROLE, AND MORE IN THE ROLE OF SUCCESSOR TO MAO AND CHOU.
GATES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760297-1353
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760892/aaaadcwz.tel
Line Count: 49
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUA KUO-FENG DROPS SECURITY JOB?
TAGS: PINT, CH, (HUA KUO-FENG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006